

spaced apart and defining at least two vertically oriented open areas between said side walls, said at least two vertically oriented open areas in communication with said openings in said base, said open areas having a cross sectional area larger than the cross sectional area of said openings in said base.

concluded

38. (Twice Amended) The press block according to claim 37 wherein:
said rows and columns are defined by reinforcement and insertion members; and
wherein there is a side wall corresponding to each insertion member and an
open area corresponding to each column of discrete openings.

REMARKS

Claims 37-44, 49-52 remain pending in this application, of which claims 37-39, 41-44 are rejected and claims 40, 49-52 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 45-48, 53, and 54 have been cancelled.

To reduce the number of issues at this stage, i.e., After-Final, Applicant has deleted two of the three independent claims and all claims dependent there from, leaving only independent claim 37 and claims dependent there from.

Claims 37-39, 41-44, have been rejected under 35 USC §112, ¶2. Applicant has amended two of the three remaining claims having §112 rejections by: (a) removing all references to the terminal (claim 37) and (b) deleting the word "also" (claim 38). However, concerning the objection to the other remaining rejected claim (44) and its language "without a loss in contact position", Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that this language is not a positive claim limitation. The language describes a *direct* result of the claimed structure. Accordingly, this claim has not been amended.

Claims 37-39, 42-44 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the newly applied Glover (USP 4,846,727). Additionally, claim 41 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in view of the newly applied Glover. These rejections are traversed in view of a mistaken interpretation of both the instant claims/invention and Glover's disclosure. Therefore, either this case should be allowed or the finality of the last office action withdrawn.

The instant invention relates to a press block for inserting an electrical connector having terminals into a printed circuit board. Accordingly, the press block neither needs nor has any electrical components such as metallic shields. It is merely a solid block having discrete openings for receiving the terminals of the connector to be inserted and a planar base/front face for pushing the connector. Additionally, parallel side walls, also known as insertion members, divide the open inside of the press block into a plurality of vertically oriented open areas.

In the previous amendment, as well as now, independent claim 37 of this patent application has described this simple press block. This amendment merely clarifies previously expressly or implicitly claimed structures and other structural relationships to remove any ambiguities; it does not further limit claim 37 or raise new issues that would require further search since these features were already claimed and are now just better defined.

For example:

a) On lines 4-5 of the present marked-up version of the claim, Applicant asserts that it has always been implicit that the inventive press block has had such a housing structure and Applicant has never argued otherwise;

b) On line 8 of the present marked-up version of the claim, Applicant asserts that it has always been implicit that the rows and columns have been "spaced apart". Applicant has merely added the positive recitation at this point so as to provide proper antecedent basis for the next amendment to the claim;

c) On lines 12-13 of the present marked-up version of the claim, Applicant asserts that it has always been implicit that the newly inserted language has always been present in the claim as the instant specification in no way would lead someone skilled in the art to believe that the side walls are not solid or there is anything between the terminal receiving openings; and

d) On line 14 of the present marked-up version of the claim, a minor grammatical clarification has been made.

Summarily, the claimed structure provides for a press block with increased mechanical strength, see, for example, specification, page 11, lines 15-21.

Generally, Glover fails to meet all these various limitations or end result. Glover is directed to a reference conductor for an electrical *connector*. He does not disclose or discuss a press block, which to one skilled in the art has a separate use and function, in and of itself. Glover discloses a connector system having a front face 38 having rows and columns of terminal receiving cavities 52. In between each column of cavities 52 is a column of slots 58 that span the length of the connector and are for receiving various portions of the plate 10. Thus, there are no solid sidewalls in the space between the terminal receiving openings and no motivation to make the walls solid because to do so would destroy the shielding aspects of Glover's invention. Furthermore, Glover's non-

solid, i.e., slotted, top 42 and bottom 44 walls weaken a structure already not intended to resist the higher forces fielded by a press block.

In his rejection, the Examiner points to Glover's plurality of cavities 52 that he clearly equates with Applicant's openings. The Examiner also points to Glover's slots 58, which Applicant presumes the Examiner is equating with Applicant's claimed open spaces. However, they are in no way equivalent. Glover's slots 58 are not in communication with his openings 52 as is and has always been claimed. This is because Glover is showing a connector where slots 58 are for receiving plate 10 and not the terminals entering the connector via Glover's cavities 52.

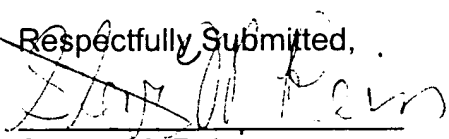
Furthermore, Glover's slots 58 are not open and unobstructed as claimed. When in use, they are filled by fingers 30A-D and the rest of plate 10. When not in use, slots 58 are still obstructed by the portions of the connector that pass between fingers 30A-D.

Thus, for all these reasons, independent claim 37 is patentable over Glover and should be allowed at this time.

Concerning the claims dependent from claim 37 while these claims contain their own allowable subject matter, they should also be allowable at least due to their dependence from allowable claim 37. Accordingly, to expedite prosecution of this after final, no further comment will be made at this time.

All claims being allowable, an early indication as such by the Examiner is requested.

~~Respectfully Submitted,~~


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Marked-Up Version to Show Changes

37. (~~Once~~Twice Amended) A unitary press block for inserting a plurality of terminals into a substrate, the press block removably engaging the terminals and comprising:

a unitary housing having a solid top surface, a solid bottom surface, solid side walls, and a generally planar base having a thickness substantially less than a length of the terminals; and

a plurality of discrete openings through said base, said plurality of discrete openings are arranged in a plurality of spaced apart rows and spaced apart columns and each said opening for receiving a respective one of the terminals so that the terminals can extend through said base; and

a plurality of vertically disposed parallel side walls extending from edges of said base, said side walls being solid and extending the entire distance said columns of openings are spaced apart and defining at least two vertically oriented open areas between said side walls, said at least two vertically oriented open areas in communication with said openings in said base, said open areas having a cross sectional area larger than the cross sectional area of said openings in said base

38. (~~Once~~Twice Amended) The press block according to claim 37 wherein:
said rows and columns are also defined by reinforcement and insertion members; and

wherein there is a side wall corresponding to each insertion member and an open area corresponding to each column of discrete openings.